

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for the hot dip coating of metal strands (1), especially steel strip, said device comprising a tank (3) that contains the molten coating metal (2) and an upstream guide channel (4) such that a metal strand (1) can be guided vertically through the guide channel (4) and the tank (3) thereby coating the metal strand (1), wherein, in the area of the guide channel (4), an electromagnetic inductor (5) is installed, which can induce induction currents in the coating metal (2) for holding back the coating metal (2) in the tank (3) by means of an electromagnetic blocking field, which induction currents interact with the electromagnetic blocking field to exert an electromagnetic force, wherein the inductor (~~5~~, ~~5a~~, ~~5b~~) is connected to electric supply means (6) that supplies the inductor with alternating current with a frequency (f) that is less than 500 Hz, such that the supply means (6) supplies the inductor (5) with single-phase alternating current, and such that the device has means (8) for guiding the metal strand (1) in the guide

channel (4), which consist of at least two correction coils (8b) for controlling the position of the metal strand (1) in the guide channel (4) in the direction (N) normal to the surface of the metal strand (1), wherein the correction coils (8b) are arranged at the same height as induction coils (7), as viewed in the direction of movement (X) of the molten strand (1).

2. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the frequency (f) is less than 100 Hz.

3. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the inductor (5) has an induction coil (7) on either side of the guide channel (4).

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic inductor (5, Sa, 5b) has two grooves (9), which run parallel to each other, perpendicular to the direction of movement (X) of the metal strand (1) and perpendicularly to the normal

direction (N), for holding an ~~the~~ induction coil (7) and the correction coil (8b).

7. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with Claim 6, wherein the correction coil (8b) mounted in the grooves (9) is mounted closer to the metal strand (1) than is the induction coil (7).

8. (Currently amended) Device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the ~~inductor (5, 5a, 5b) has~~ least two coils (8b', 8b'', 8b''') are arranged side by side in either side of the metal strand (1).

9. (Previously presented) Device according to claim 2, wherein the frequency (f) is 50 Hz.